

ONTARIO NATIVE COUNCIL ON JUSTICE

FACT SHEET - MAY 1983

I HISTORY

The Ontario Native Council on Justice has been in existence for eight years. It evolved from the Ontario Native Advisory Committee to the Criminal Justice System. This Committee had been established in April of 1975 as a result of prior planning for the Edmonton Federal-Provincial Conference on Natives Peoples and the Criminal Justice System held in February of 1975 and a specific recommendation from the conference. In late 1976 the Committee was restructured to ensure Native control. In the spring of 1977 the Committee was funded by a grant from the Indian Community Secretariat on behalf of the Provincial Secretariat for Justice and the name was changed to the Ontario Native Council on Justice. The grant enabled the Council to open an office, hire staff who would be responsible to its member Native organizations and to conduct its own research on justice issues.

II MEMBERSHIP

- * Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
- * Grand Council Treaty #3
- * Native Inmates from Provincial Institutions
- * Native Law Students' Association
- * Nishnawbe-Aski Nation
- * Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
- * Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association
- * Ontario Native Women's Association
- * Union of Ontario Indians

III GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP

The Council is a truly Native body. Government representatives participate and assist from time to time but do not vote. Ministry liaison persons to the Council include representatives from:

- * Provincial Secretariat for Justice
- * Ministry of the Attorney General
- * Ministry of Correctional Services
- * Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations
- * Ministry of the Solicitor General
- * Ministry of Community and Social Services
- * Native Community Branch of the Ministry of Citizenship & Culture
- * Solicitor General of Canada
- * Department of Justice

One or two formal joint meetings are held each year between the Council and its ministry liaison persons.

IV OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Council are:

- * To act in the development of justice policy pertaining to Native people and in so doing to identify problems and propose solutions;
- * To encourage and facilitate the initiation, development and funding of justice-related programs which are designed and operated by and for Native people;
- * To conduct and publish research on justice-related areas of concern to Native people;
- * To make recommendations and presentations to individual ministries in the justice policy field, the Cabinet Committee on Justice and any other provincial and federal ministries or departments or organizations on justice-related issues;
- * To provide consultation on a regular and formal basis among the organizations representing Native people throughout Ontario and between those organizations and the ministries and agencies which form and control the justice system; and
- * To initiate and maintain contacts between the Native people and government representatives for the purpose of enabling two-way communication and sharing of information.

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V ACHIEVEMENTS

The Council works co-operatively with a number of Native organizations and government ministries and therefore cannot claim exclusive credit for any accomplishments. It can, however, take legitimate pride in the following achievements to which it has contributed:

- * Development of a legal clinic in Thunder Bay in cooperation with local Native organizations and the Ontario Legal Aid Plan;
- * Initiation of community service order projects at N'Amerind Friendship Centre in London and Ne-Chee Friendship Centre in Kenora in cooperation with the Ministry of Correctional Services;
- * Assistance towards the establishment and development of Native inmate liaison projects in Cochrane, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Kenora in cooperation with local Native organizations and the Ministry of Correctional Services;
- * Policy statements on such issues of concern as:
 - The Position of Consultant on Native Programs with the Ministry of the Attorney General
 - A National Advisory Council on Native People and the Criminal Justice System
 - Improvements in Legal Aid Delivery to Native People
 - Recognition of Native Inmate Self-Help Groups
 - Native Awareness Training for OPP Officers
- * Participation with the Ministry of Correctional Services in the establishment and subsequent evaluation of the position of Native Programmes Development Co-ordinator;
- * Translation of the Glossary of Correctional Terms into Ojibway for the Ministry of Correctional Services;
- * Appointment of Native Persons to Legal Aid Area Committees in London, St. Catharines, Kenora and Sudbury in cooperation with the Ontario Legal Aid Plan;
- * Initial formation of an Association of Northern and Native Legal Clinics;
- * Facilitation of an independent assessment of the Kenora Community Service Order and Native Inmate Liaison Projects in cooperation with Ne-Chee Friendship Centre and the Ministry of Correctional Services;
- * Completion of an inquiry into concerns raised by the Ontario Native Women's Association regarding the focus and direction of Kinna-Aweya Legal Clinic;
- * Assistance to Grand Council Treaty #3 and the Ontario Native Women's Association in successfully obtaining funding for Justice Development Worker demonstration projects;
- * Assistance to Ne-Chee Friendship Centre in securing funding for an expansion of the Native Inmate Liaison Project to one full-time and one part-time position in order to focus on the needs of Native female inmates;
- * Assistance to Chief and Council of Rat Portage Band in obtaining funding for the first attendance centre in Ontario which will supervise Native probationers, parolees and temporary absence referrals;
- * Joint publication with the Ministry of Correctional Services of The Native Inmate in Ontario (1981);
- * Publication of Anicinabe Debtors' Prison. Final Report to the Ontario Native Council on Justice on a Survey of Fine Defaulters and Sentenced Offenders Incarcerated in the Kenora District Jail for Provincial Offences (1983);
- * Preparation of a Proposal to Conduct a Comparative Analysis of Judicial Proceedings Concerning Native and Non-Native Persons Appearing Before Courts in Ontario (1981);
- * Publication of Warehousing Indians. Fact Sheet on the Disproportionate Imprisonment of Native People in Ontario 1981-82;
- * Publication of an Inventory of Follow-up by the Ontario Native Council on Justice to the Recommendations Agreed Upon at the 1975 Federal-Provincial Conference on Native Peoples and the Criminal Justice System in Edmonton (1981);

- * Publication of The Young Offenders Act: An Opportunity For A New Beginning (1983);
- * Publication of The Kids Are Hurting. Fact Sheet on the Disproportionate Involvement of Indian Young People in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems of Ontario 1981-82;
- * Publication of "The Inner Circle". Staff Development and Community Education and the Young Offenders Act. Bill C-61 (1983);
- * Development of a Revised Proposal for a Community Residential Complex for Ex-Offenders and Their Families at the Dalles Reserve (1981); and
- * Publication of The Native Justice of the Peace: An Under-Employed Natural Resource for the Criminal Justice System (1982).

VI CURRENT PRIORITIES

At the close of each Council meeting, delegates determine the priorities for its staff and committees. The current priorities of the Council are:

- * Follow-up to Anicinabe Debtors' Prison: Final Report to the Ontario Native Council on Justice on a Survey of Fine Defaulters and Sentenced Offenders Incarcerated in the Kenora District Jail for Provincial Offences;
- * Completion of the Development of Native Awareness Training programs for crown attorneys and probation and parole officers;
- * Completion of the review of the Council's staff structure and terms of reference;
- * Follow-up to the project to develop a plan for Native executive and staff development and community education concerning the Young Offenders Act;
- * Completion of the final response to the Ontario Consultation Paper on Implementing Bill C-61 - The Young Offenders Act; and
- * Development of a Native community-based fine option project.

VII PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are available from the Council:

(Charges are to cover the cost of reproduction only. Postage costs will be calculated and invoiced on each order.)

THE ONTARIO NATIVE COUNCIL ON JUSTICE

- * Annual Report and Financial Statements: April 1, 1981 - March 31, 1982 - 38 pages (no charge)
- * Fact Sheet on the Ontario Native Council on Justice - 4 pages (no charge)
- * Native People in Conflict with the Criminal Justice System: The Impact of the Ontario Native Council on Justice. Paper for the American Society of Criminology (1982) by Stan Jolly - 38 pages (\$2.50).
- * Natives in Conflict with the Law (1982) by Stan Jolly - 16 pages (Reprinted from Correctional OPTIONS) (\$2.50)
- * The Ontario Native Council on Justice: A Unique Offspring of a Federal-Provincial Conference (1982) by Stan Jolly - 17 pages (Reprinted from the Canadian Legal Aid Bulletin) (\$2.50)

THE NATIVE INMATE

- * Warehousing Indians. Fact Sheet on the Disproportionate Imprisonment of Native People in Ontario. 1981-82 by Stan Jolly - 20 pages (\$2.50)
- * The Native Inmate in Ontario (1981) by Andy Birkenmayer and Stan Jolly - 47 pages (no charge as long as supplies last - then \$5.00)
- * Anicinabe Debtors' Prison. Final Report to the Ontario Native Council on Justice on a Survey of Fine Defaulters and Sentenced Offenders Incarcerated in the Kenora District Jail for Provincial Offences (1983) by Joseph Peter Seymour and Stan Jolly - 126 pages (\$15.00)

- * Revised Proposal for a Community Residential Complex for Ex-Offenders and Their Families at the Dalles Reserve (1981) by Larry Kabestra and Stan Jolly - 90 pages (\$10.00)

THE NATIVE YOUNG OFFENDER

- * Justice-Related Children and Family Services for Native People in Ontario. A Discussion Paper (1981) by Bryan Loucks and Arnette Timothy - 95 pages (\$10.00)
- * The Young Offenders Act. An Opportunity for a New Beginning. Interim Response from the Ontario Native Council on Justice to the Ontario Consultation Paper on Implementing Bill C-61. The Young Offenders Act (1983) - 70 pages (\$10.00)
- * "The Inner Circle". Staff Development and Community Education and Young Offenders Act. Bill C-61 (1983) by Bryan Loucks - 131 pages (no charge as long as supplies last - then \$15.00)
- * The Kids Are Hurting. Fact Sheet on the Disproportionate Involvement of Indian Young People in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems of Ontario. 1981-82 by Stan Jolly - 13 pages (\$2.50)

ALCOHOL PROFITS

- * Inquiry into Revenue Gained by the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada from the Sale of Alcohol to Native People. April 1, 1978 - March 31, 1979 by Linda Vedan - 29 pages (\$5.00)

COURTS

- * Final Report on the Review of the Ontario Native Courtworker Program (1980) by Roger Obonsawin and Stan Jolly - 163 pages (\$15.00)
- * The Native Justice of the Peace: An Under-Employed Natural Resource for the Criminal Justice System (1982) - 224 pages (no charge as long as supplies last - then \$15.00)
- * Proposal to Conduct a Comparative Analysis of Judicial Proceedings Concerning Native and Non-Native Persons Appearing Before Courts in Ontario (1981) by Charles Hill - 48 pages (\$5.00)

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE ON NATIVE PEOPLES AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- * Progress Report on Government Action Taken Since the 1975 Federal-Provincial Conference on Native Peoples and the Criminal Justice System (1979) by Carol Peters, Shelly Spiegel and Stan Jolly - 39 pages (\$5.00)
- * Inventory of Follow-up by the Ontario Native Council on Justice to the Recommendations Agreed Upon at the 1975 Federal-Provincial Conference on Native Peoples and the Criminal Justice System in Edmonton (1981) by Stan Jolly - 10 pages (\$2.50)

NATIVE LEGAL CLINICS

- * Native People and Kinna-Aweya Legal Clinic: The First Priority or the Sole Priority? An Inquiry into Concerns Raised by the Ontario Native Women's Association Regarding the Focus and Direction of Kinna-Aweya Legal Clinic (1982) by Stan Jolly - 101 pages (\$10.00)

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